

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 6, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 24, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 9, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2643

Introduced by Assembly Member Wieckowski
(Coauthor: Senator Cannella)

February 21, 2014

An act to add Section ~~1708.9~~ 1708.85 to the Civil Code, relating to privacy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2643, as amended, Wieckowski. Invasion of privacy: distribution of sexually explicit materials.

Existing law makes it a crime for a person to distribute, with the intent to cause serious emotional distress, a photograph or recorded image of the intimate body part or parts of another identifiable person, under circumstances where the parties agree or understand that the image shall remain private, if the depicted person subsequently suffers serious emotional distress.

This bill would create a private right of action against a person who intentionally distributes a photograph or recorded image of another that exposes the intimate body parts, as defined, of that person or him or her engaged in specified sexual acts, without his or her consent, knowing

that the other person had a reasonable expectation that the material would remain private, if specified conditions are met. The bill would establish affirmative defenses to that cause of action, including waiver or consent of the person appearing in the material. In a civil proceeding pursuant to these provisions, the bill would also authorize equitable relief, as specified, and a plaintiff to proceed using a pseudonym instead of his or her true name. The bill would require a plaintiff using a pseudonym in a civil proceeding under these provisions to file a confidential information form, as specified. The bill would make these provisions operative July 1, 2015.

This bill would further require the Judicial Council to develop that confidential information form by July 1, 2015.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section ~~1708.9~~-1708.85 is added to the Civil
2 Code, to read:
3 ~~1708.9:~~
4 1708.85. (a) A private cause of action lies against a person
5 who intentionally distributes by any means a photograph, film,
6 videotape, recording, or any other reproduction of another, without
7 the other's consent, if (1) the person knew that the other person
8 had a reasonable expectation that the material would remain
9 private, (2) the distributed material exposes an intimate body part
10 of the other person, or shows the other person engaging in an act
11 of intercourse, oral copulation, sodomy, or other act of sexual
12 penetration, and (3) the other person suffers general or special
13 damages as described in Section 48a.
14 (b) As used in this section, "intimate body part" means any
15 portion of the genitals, and, in the case of a female, also includes
16 any portion of the breast below the top of the areola, that is
17 uncovered or visible through less than fully opaque clothing.
18 (c) There shall be no liability on the part of the person
19 distributing material under subdivision (a) under any of the
20 following circumstances:
21 (1) The distributed material was created under an agreement by
22 the person appearing in the material for its public use and

1 distribution or otherwise intended by that person for public use
2 and distribution.

3 (2) The person possessing or viewing the distributed material
4 has permission from the person appearing in the material to publish
5 by any means or post the material on an Internet Web site.

6 (3) The person appearing in the material waived any reasonable
7 expectation of privacy in the distributed material by making it
8 accessible to the general public.

9 (4) The distributed material constitutes a matter of public
10 concern.

11 (5) The distributed material was photographed, filmed,
12 videotaped, recorded, or otherwise reproduced in a public place
13 and under circumstances in which the person depicted had no
14 reasonable expectation of privacy.

15 (6) The distributed material was previously distributed by
16 another person.

17 (d) In addition to any other relief available at law, the court may
18 order equitable relief against the person violating subdivision (a),
19 including a temporary restraining order, or a preliminary injunction
20 or a permanent injunction ordering the defendant to cease
21 distribution of material. The court may grant injunctive relief
22 maintaining the confidentiality of a ~~plaintiff~~ *plaintiff* using a
23 pseudonym as provided in subdivision (f).

24 (e) The court may also grant, after holding a properly noticed
25 hearing, reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing
26 plaintiff.

27 (f) (1) A plaintiff in a civil proceeding pursuant to subdivision
28 (a), may proceed using a pseudonym, either John Doe, Jane Doe,
29 or Doe, for the true name of the plaintiff and may exclude or redact
30 from all pleadings and documents filed in the action other
31 identifying characteristics of the plaintiff. A plaintiff who proceeds
32 using a pseudonym and excluding or redacting identifying
33 characteristics as provided in this section shall file with the court
34 and serve upon the defendant a confidential information form for
35 this purpose that includes the plaintiff's name and other identifying
36 characteristics excluded or redacted. The court shall keep the
37 plaintiff's name and excluded or redacted characteristics
38 confidential.

39 (2) All court decisions, orders, petitions, and other documents,
40 including motions and papers filed by the parties, shall be worded

1 so as to protect the name or other identifying characteristics of the
2 plaintiff from public revelation.

3 (3) As used in this subdivision, “identifying characteristics”
4 includes, but is not limited to, name or any part thereof, address
5 or any part thereof, city or unincorporated area of residence, age,
6 marital status, relationship to defendant, and race or ethnic
7 background.

8 (4) The responsibility for excluding or redacting the name or
9 identifying characteristics of the plaintiff from all documents filed
10 with the court rests solely with the parties and their attorneys.
11 Nothing in this section requires the court to review pleadings or
12 other papers for compliance with this provision.

13 (g) In an action pursuant to this section, the plaintiff shall state
14 in the caption of the complaint “ACTION BASED ON CIVIL
15 CODE SECTION-1708.9.” 1708.85.”

16 (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or negate
17 any rights, obligations, or immunities of an interactive service
18 provider under Section 230 of Title 47 of the United States Code.
19 Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or preclude a
20 plaintiff from securing or recovering any other available remedy.

21 (i) The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision
22 of this section or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall
23 not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect
24 without the invalid provision or application.

25 (j) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2015.

26 SEC. 2. The Judicial Council shall, by July 1, 2015, develop
27 the confidential information form specified in subdivision (f) of
28 Section-1708.9 1708.85 of the Civil Code.